

#5/A 88
11/25/03

PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 8636.0001-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Gregory A. Hair et al.) Prior Group Art Unit: 1656
Divisional of) Examiner: T. STRZELECKA
Serial No.: 09/721,975)
Filed: November 9, 2001)
For: NOVEL BONE MINERALIZATION)
PROTEIN, DNA, VECTORS,)
EXPRESSION SYSTEMS)

**Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231**

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Before examining this application, please amend it at follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-48, and enter new claims 49-63:

A1
--49. A method of inducing bone formation comprising transfecting osteogenic precursor cells with an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding LIM mineralization protein, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 22, or SEQ ID NO: 33.

50. The method of claim 49, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule is in a vector.

51. The method of claim 50, wherein the vector is an expression vector.